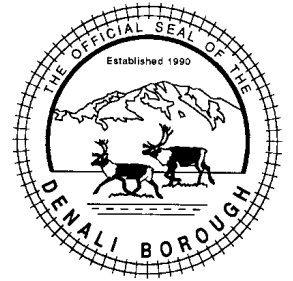


DENALI BOROUGH

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Chris Noel, Mayor

November 2024 Mayor's Report

Administrative

- Personnel Policy- Treasurer Allison Johnson and I have been working earnestly on a draft revision to the Personnel Policy. Last updated in 2022, this document is accepted by each employee upon hiring. After a series of staff meetings to review and revise, by past practice, the policy will come before the Assembly for adoption.

Solid Waste

- Ground Water Monitoring Results- We received results of the annual groundwater monitoring sampling event from our contractor and results were shared with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. There were no surprises, and we continue to find very low levels of contamination which can be attributed to the facility. This serves as a good reminder of the hierarchy of waste management! Reduce Consumption, Reuse and Recycle when possible, and properly dispose of the remainder
For more information – visit denaliborough.org/solidwaste
- In an unfortunate incident, the 966 loader suffered a cracked hydraulic hose and lost all of its fluid. Based on the scale of the issue, the loader was transported to Fairbanks for service. In the meantime, we once again rented an excavator to meet our cover needs. We will address these unexpected challenges in the budget amendment.

Land Planning

- USPS and Google have adopted Denali Borough addresses- In an exciting step forward, Land Planner Marsha Lambert learned that the United States Postal Service and Google have formally accepted Denali Borough street addresses. Voter Registration is pulled from the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) application information. A reminder- borough addresses are a Physical Street Address for location purposes. It provides a verifiable address for services such as banks, utilities, etc. Residents should continue to use their Post office box and highway/rural route location for mailing address purposes.
- We solicited and received a proposal for a preliminary plat of Phase 1 of the Panguingue Lignite Subdivision. I plan to bring forward an allocation Ordinance in December with more details on the scope of work, timeline, and additional opportunity for public participation.

Community Development

- Community Change Grant- This grant has been a heavy lift and we expect to submit the application this week. The grant request includes over \$17.8 million in projects, largely upgrades to the school buildings and community centers. A big thank you to our partners, Denali Borough School District, Denali Community Foundation, Alaska Municipal League, Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department, and McKinley Park Community Club and fire department. Big thanks to Community Development Director Stephanie Ford who has led the effort for our borough staff team.
- We held two successful vaccination clinics last week, using a new model and partner. Fairweather Medical LLC, under a contract with Public Health Nursing, managed the clinics from start to finish with minor

support required from the borough and NPS staff. Over 100 community members received nearly 200 vaccinations between the two-day event.

- The Denali Area Airport Planning Study, Stakeholder Advisory group met last week and discussed a draft Vision statement and associated goals. The group also reviewed public survey data.

Emergency Management

- The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will be meeting Tuesday December 19th at the school in Anderson.
- New (Cantwell, Healy, Denali Borough) and updated (McKinley Village, Anderson) Community Wildfire Protection Plans are drafted, and available for public review. Public meetings will be held December 3rd and 4th to review and discuss the drafts. Visit the borough website for the meeting location and times.
- Clear Fire Road Repair- Emergency Manager Forest Shreeve, Treasurer Allison Johnson, and I attended a kick-off for a Public Assistance award to repair Kobe area roads, following the 2022 Clear fire. Approximately \$190,000 was awarded, to “return impacted roads to pre-fire conditions.” We expect to post a project solicitation in time for the summer 2025 construction season. This is much appreciated assistance and will repair small segments of Kobe Rd, Battle Axe Lane, and Rochester Way.
- Generator Update – New generators for the Cantwell and McKinley Village fire hall are built and available for pick-up in Fairbanks. We anticipate delivery and connection with the buildings to occur in the next few weeks.

Items of Interest

- I attended an informational meeting about the Alaska Broadband Grant, hosted by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. The first phase of the Grant is complete, the “Mapping Challenge,” where the state identified areas designated as unserved, or underserved. In the Denali Borough, they identified 788 locations unserved by high-speed internet, and 543 underserved by high-speed internet – between the five communities of Cantwell, Carlo Creek, Denali Park, Healy, and Anderson. For the borough to play a role in applying for this grant, we will need to work closely with our internet service provider, Matanuska Telephone Association, and each local community.

Denali Borough School District

- We received the audit of the school district; final Denali Borough audit work continues.

Local Elections

- Appreciation to Clerk Amber Renshaw and Administrative Clerk Salena Mirasole for facilitating yet another successful election. Thanks also to election judges and canvas committee members who assisted in managing the election process.

Alaska Municipal League Conference

- The 74th Annual Local Government conference is December 9 – 13 in Anchorage. I would encourage any newly elected officials to consider attending the conference. Contact the borough office for more details.

We have much to be thankful for. Feel free to call or email me or staff if you have any questions.

- Chris